

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 5, 8, and 17; please cancel claims 10-16.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A microwave waveguide comprising:
broad walls separated by and electromagnetically coupled with at least one field
~~modifier~~ modifier, wherein said modifier has a nonlinear profile and wherein the broad
walls comprise a slot at least partially off-center.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The microwave waveguide according to claim 1,
wherein said field modifier is adjustable.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The microwave waveguide according to claim 1,
wherein said waveguide includes at least two field modifiers having nonlinear profiles.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The microwave waveguide according to claim 2,
wherein said field modifier is adjusted through the use of mechanical actuators.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The microwave waveguide according to claim 2,
wherein said field modifier is adjusted in response to a sensed condition in a web to be
dried.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein said field modifier is physically coupled to said broad walls.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein said field modifier is capacitively coupled to said broad walls.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ said field modifier is configured to provide uniform heating or drying along the length of the waveguide.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The microwave waveguide according to claim 1, wherein said field modifier is configured to provide a relative slot height profile as defined by

$$h(z) = (b/\pi) \sin^{-1} [1/\sin^2(\pi h_0/b) - 2\omega Z \epsilon_0 \epsilon''_r tz/b)^{-1/2}].$$

Claims 10-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (currently amended): A microwave waveguide comprising:
broad walls separated by and electromagnetically coupled with at least one narrow ~~[[wall]]~~ wall, wherein said narrow wall has a nonlinear profile and wherein the broad walls comprise a slot at least partially off-center.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The microwave waveguide according to claim 17, wherein said narrow wall is adjustable.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The microwave waveguide according to claim 17, wherein said waveguide includes at least two narrow walls having nonlinear profiles.